

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of pending claims replaces all prior versions and lists of claims in this application:

CLAIM LIST:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of verifying the accuracy or authenticity of alphanumeric magnetic data on a document having a layer of magnetic material in which the alphanumeric magnetic data and a magnetic reference image are stored, wherein comprising:

(a) making the configuration of ~~[[a]]~~ the pictorial or graphic magnetic reference image in the layer of magnetic material of the document ~~is made~~ visible by bringing movable particulate magnetic material into proximity therewith such that the particulate magnetic material takes up a distribution corresponding to the magnetic field of the reference image; and

(b) comparing the magnetic image configuration thus revealed ~~is compared~~ with the reference image to identify any significant disconformity suggesting past exposure of the document to a magnetic field capable of altering said magnetic data or image.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the document also carries visible information.

3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the document carries a layer of magnetic material which has a coercivity which is substantially uniform across its area.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the document comprises a pair of laminated outer sheets between which is a magnetic layer comprising magnetically-activatable particles in a binder matrix, the outer ~~sheet~~ sheets having sufficient opacity to mask the appearance of the magnetic layer.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said outer sheets are of natural or synthetic paper.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the magnetic layer is formed by a coating on the inwardly facing surface of one or both of the outer sheets, or by a laminating adhesive which is applied as or just before the two outer sheets are brought together in a laminating press ~~or similar equipment~~.

7. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 4, in which at least one outer sheet carries a pigment/binder coat on its inward facing surface.

8. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 4, at least one of the outer sheets being provided on its outward facing surface with a coating which comprises either microcapsules containing a solution of at least one chromogenic material, or dispersed droplets containing at least one chromogenic material in a

pressure-rupturable matrix, or a colour developer composition, or both microcapsules containing at least one chromogenic material and also a colour developer.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of storing alphanumeric magnetic data on a document and subsequently confirming its authenticity, which comprises storing a pictorial or graphic magnetic reference image in a layer of magnetic material on the document; writing said alphanumeric magnetic data to the layer of magnetic material of the document; and subsequently verifying the accuracy or authenticity of said alphanumeric magnetic data by ~~a method as claimed in claim 1~~

making the pictorial or graphic magnetic reference image in the document visible by bringing movable particulate magnetic material into proximity therewith such that the particulate magnetic material takes up a distribution corresponding to the magnetic field of the reference image; and

comparing the magnetic material distribution thus revealed with the reference image to identify any significant disconformity suggesting past exposure of the document to a magnetic field capable of altering said magnetic data or images.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A document or other sheet product suitable for verification by a method as claimed claim 1~~ which comprises magnetic material ~~which has~~ having a coercivity which is substantially uniform across its area, and which carries a pictorial or graphic magnetic reference image in addition to alphanumeric magnetic data, the reference image and the alphanumeric data being in the same magnetic material;

the pictorial or graphic magnetic reference image in the product capable of being made visible when movable particulate magnetic material is placed in proximity therewith such that the particulate magnetic material takes up a distribution corresponding to the magnetic field of the pictorial or graphic reference image.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~document or other~~ sheet product suitable for verification ~~by a method as claimed in claim 1~~ which comprises a pair of laminated outer sheets between which is a magnetic layer comprising magnetically-activatable particles in a binder matrix, the outer ~~sheet~~ sheets having sufficient opacity to mask the appearance of the magnetic layer, and in which the magnetic layer carries a pictorial or graphic magnetic reference image in addition to alphanumeric magnetic data;

the pictorial or graphic magnetic reference image in the sheet product capable of being made visible when movable particulate magnetic material is placed in proximity therewith such that the particulate magnetic material takes up a distribution corresponding to the magnetic field of the pictorial or graphic reference image.

12. (Cancelled).

13. The sheet product of Claim 10 which comprises a document.

14. The sheet product of Claim 11 which comprises a document.